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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Food-production program; farm labor; Victory Gardens; and neighborhood-leader organization headline the week's summary.

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MASSACHUSETTS  
April 20, 1944

Farm labor.- Nonfarm boys are being given opportunity to learn about farm operation in 1-week orientation course at Massachusetts State College. Now in third week, course has been taken by 43 boys, and many more plan to attend coming sessions. To be eligible, boy must be at least 14 years old, weigh 125 pounds, and pass medical examination. Each applicant is interviewed by farm labor assistant as to his seriousness about farm work and is given to understand he is expected to work on dairy farm in coming summer. Eight counties have thus far been represented.

Massachusetts' allotment of workers from Newfoundland is 100, including both single men and married couples. First group of 25 of these workers is expected to come to State college April 24 for week's introduction to dairy farming as practiced in this section. At weekly intervals other groups of 25 will arrive and be assigned to counties as they complete training period.

Recruitment for Victory Farm Volunteers is progressing satisfactorily in high schools. New leaflet, Converting Boy Power into Man Power, is being distributed to farmers to help make relation between farmer and boy pleasant and productive at start and throughout season. New Women's Land Army leaflet is being printed for distribution to prospective workers. Heavy demand for women workers, especially on vegetable farms, is reported.

Victory Gardens.- Progress report of April 15 on Massachusetts home Victory Gardens stated that 75 percent of towns had reorganized program, and others were expected to do so. Refresher conferences have been held for teachers of garden subjects and are under way for teachers of food preservation. Under direction of Extension and leadership of State committee, 2 extension workers are devoting full time, 1 extension and 4 resident teachers devoting part time, and 7 off-campus workers devoting part time to promoting garden and food-preservation programs. These are in addition to regular county extension workers.

State and county workers are making special effort this year to encourage management of industries, utilities, and other organizations to promote gardens among employees. This field is believed to offer best opportunity for increasing number of gardens and production of food from home gardens. Many towns with community plots report demands for space this year are as great as or greater than in 1943.

OREGON

March 21, 1944

Food-production program.- At food-production meetings held in every county of State, farmers were asked to give opinions as to extent to which objectives presented would be attained in their county. At conclusion of series, opinions were brought together by types of farming areas and analyzed by extension economist. Analysis indicated farmers expected attainment of 97 percent of goals. Some objectives will be overshot; for instance, wheat, which was listed for 3-percent acreage increase and appeared likely to be increased about 11 percent. Others, such as seed production, hay, and hogs, would not be attained, in opinion of farmers.

Neighborhood-leader organization.- Neighborhood-leader plan is being strengthened and procedure revised to allow somewhat greater initiative to county extension staffs as to methods of organization and selection of jobs. Neighborhood-leader organization is being used to provide additional information on national, State, and county aspects of food-production program for every farmer in State.

Conferences for all members of county extension staffs were held in seven districts. Folder in brief form giving essential facts on food-production program was prepared for use by neighborhood leaders and other community leaders assisting. Suggestive statement to fit each type of farming area was prepared for county agent to localize and place in hands of every farmer through neighborhood leaders. This intensive educational work may have some influence on apparent intention of farmers to underreach certain production goals and overreach others.

Victory Garden information was included as part of suggested job for neighborhood leaders. At district conferences special attention was given to Victory Gardens. Stress was placed on greater need for gardens; opportunity for more gardens on farms and in small rural communities; enlargement of gardens to meet scientific dietary needs more adequately. Victory Garden conferences were planned for every county.

These conferences were organized under following plan:

1. Extension Service policy concerning neighborhood leaders.
  - a. Review of past policy.
  - b. Adjustment in policy.
  - c. War food program and appropriate neighborhood-leader job.
2. Victory Garden program.
3. Allocation of War Food Administration emergency funds.



4. Discussion of franking regulations.
5. Uniformity in reporting war emergency activities.
6. Farm labor set-up.
7. Participation in post-war planning.

County agents generally are making progress in improving organization of work on war emergency assignments, especially in larger counties. Agents still serve as secretaries of most of the farm machinery rationing committees, ration boards, and county conservation committees. More details are being turned over to assistant AAA secretaries, war board assistant secretaries, and others, who also are handling much of work in connection with investigation of selective service deferment cases.

Because of doubt that 7-percent increase in hay acreage would be attained, special attention was given, through extension agents and dairy and livestock specialists, to pasture-improvement program in western Oregon. Fertilizer demonstrations were established in Lincoln and Curry Counties to show value of nitrogen. In many counties renewed interest in pasture irrigation is being shown. Plans for several new installations already have been provided. In seven counties specialists in soils and farm crops have met with seedsmen and fertilizer dealers to arrive at definite understanding as to seed varieties and quality and fertilizer needed under typical conditions.

Home economics.- Home demonstration agents continue to devote much time to war emergency work. In 12 counties they report activities in connection with nutrition committees. Jackson County nutrition committee has emphasized hot school-lunch program and is preparing to can surpluses for school lunches next year. Canning will be done by canteen aids trained by home demonstration agent. Foods and nutrition work in 9 counties included demonstrations on wartime cookery under rationing, vegetable cookery, and extended uses of milk, eggs, and milk products.

Nine agents were active with Red Cross, as were extension unit members in most counties. In Lane, Jackson, and Yamhill Counties extension units gave special days to preparation of surgical dressings and other articles. In three other counties home demonstration agents assisted in distribution and collection of Red Cross materials in rural areas.

4-H Club work.- 4-H activities have been devoted largely to completing organization of livestock and crops clubs for year. In 12 counties, 18 special training schools for local leaders were held. Plans have been made for more extensive 4-H Victory Gardens this year. Many 4-H Clubs are basing their food-production goals on amount of food necessary to maintain one man in service 1 year.

Agricultural economics.- Further use of outlook information is expected to be made in farm family living in Lane County. Marketing and credit agencies will be encouraged to increase use of outlook material. Plans were made with dean of school of education and representatives of State department of education for participation of high-school teachers in consideration of economic questions. Work was

done toward increasing number of outlook extension leaders on farms among graduates of agricultural college and former Smith-Hughes students.

Farm labor.- Relations with United States Employment Service in handling farm labor have been maintained. Although demand for farm labor was at lowest volume of year more than 500 placements were made in February. In 14 counties reporting, 1,054 agricultural deferment cases were considered. Much of work of determining extent of participation in food production by those applying for deferment was handled by assisting AAA secretaries and others under direction of county agents.